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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 7 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A low attenuation optical fiber, comprising:

a light transmitting region having

a dispersion characteristic (D) of 2.0 to 14.0 ps/nm/km in absolute value over a wavelength band of 1530 to 1565 nm[;], and

a transmission loss at a wavelength of 1550 nm which does not exceed [remains no more than] 0.25 dB/km under standard atmospheric conditions, wherein

said transmission loss at a wavelength of 1550 nm does not exceed 0.25 dB/km after being exposed, for a predetermined period, to an atmosphere consisting substantially of hydrogen under ordinary atmospheric pressure at ordinary temperature.

7. (Twice Amended) A low attenuation optical fiber, comprising:

a light transmitting region having

a dispersion characteristic (D) of 2.0 to 14.0 ps/nm/km in absolute value over a wavelength band of 1530 to 1565 nm[;], and

a transmission loss at a wavelength of [1520]1550 nm which does not exceed [remains no more than] 0.25 dB/km under standard atmospheric conditions; [and]wherein

a transmission loss at a wavelength of [1550]1520 nm which does not exceed
[remains no more than] 0.25 dB/km after being exposed, for a predetermined period, to an
atmosphere consisting substantially of hydrogen under ordinary atmospheric pressure at
ordinary temperature.